

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SP-02 L-03 H-02 INR-07 /032 W

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R 061525Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1718

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STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: BDISHPG

SUBJECT: COMMERCIAL DISPUTE

REF: (A) STATE 76553, B(B) CAIRO 4237, (C) CAIRO 4293

1. KEATING AND ALY CALLED ON DCM AND COML. OFFICER AGAIN APRIL 5 AFTER TWO-HOUR MEETING WITH MILITARY COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY GEN. YOUSSEF TO FURTHER REVIEW GOE COMPLAINTS ABOUT BUSES (REF C, PARA 2). MEETING POSTPONED FROM APRIL 3 TO APRIL 5 BY EGYPTIANS.

2. KEATING STATED THAT MEETING HAD BEEN TOTALLY NEGATIVE ON PART OF EGYPTIANS WITH NO ATTEMPT TO ARRIVE AT WORKABLE COMPROMISE THAT WOULD PERMIT SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM. KEATING CLAIMS THAT EGYPTIANS CHARGED HIM WITH FRAUD, STATING THAT A GENERAL MOTORS REP HAD INSPECTED BUSES AND REPORTED NOT ALL COMPONENTS SUPPLIED BY CHEVROLET. ACCORDING TO KEATING, EGYPTIANS REFUSED TO NAME GM REP OR PROVIDE PROOF OF THIS CLAIM. DCM SUGGESTED EGYPTIANS PERHAPS UNAWARE THAT BODIES AND OTHER COMPONENTS OFTEN OBTAINED SEPARATELY. KEATING SUGGESTED THAT THIS CLAIM SIMPLY ANOTHER PLOY, ALTHOUGH ALY THOUGH THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND.

3. KEATING THEN SHOWED EMBOFFS TRANSLATION DONE BY ALY OF COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES WHICH TOOK ONLY ONE PAGE

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TO REPORT. HE REPORTED THAT, EXCEPT WHEN HE WAS BEING

ADDRESSED, ENTIRE MEETING WAS IN ARABIC AND NOTHING HE SAID WAS PLACED IN MINUTES. ACCORDING TO TRANSLATION, MINUTES PROVIDED BREAKDOWN OF NON-STANDARD PARTS ON EACH BUS THAT NEEDED TO BE REPLACED FOR EACH UNIT TO BE ACCEPTABLE. ALY SHOWED EMBASSY LETTER IN ARABIC FROM MILITARY VEHICLE DEPARTMENT WHICH HE SAID CHARGED ALL BUSES NOT MANUFACTURED BY CHEVROLET AND THREATENED TO RETURN ALL BUSES TO RAZEK ALY CO.

4. KEATING AGAIN EXPRESSED HIS THANKS FOR EMBASSY CONCERN AND ASSISTANCE. DCM PROPOSED EMBASSY EFFORT TO ARRANGE MEETING WITH ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF FAHMY TO PURSUE MATTER FURTHER(REF C, PARA 4), BUT KEATING REPLIED HE DID NOT FEEL SUCH MEETING WOULD SERVE ANY USEFUL PURPOSE AT THIS POINT. HOWEVER, HE DID SAY HE WOULD RETURN TO U.S. IN FEW DAYS AND INTENDED PURSUE MATTER VIGOROUSLY AT THAT END WHICH MAY MEAN THAT DEPARTMENT WILL HEAR FURTHER FROM CONGRESSMAN BOWEN. (COMMENT: WE HAD IMPRESSION THAT EMPHASIS ON THIS LAST PART BY KEATING WAS MADE MORE FOR ALY'S BENEFIT THAN OUR OWN.) EILTS

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Disposition Authority: RowellE0
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